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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 11 JANUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey continued between 1 and 8 January 2000 and that the aircraft in question engaged in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the facilities for these acts of aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

These actions are continuing to bring death and injury to hundreds of civilians and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The logistic support that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey provide to the United States and British forces makes them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they share international responsibility for the consequences of these actions. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek lawful compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these same actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 1-8 January 2000

1. In the northern region 14 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

At 1205 hours on 7 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Zakho, Ayn Zalah and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1320 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 161 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1100 hours on 2 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 62 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 46 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Safwan, Basrah, Qurnah, Artawi, Lasaf, Taqtaqanah, Amarah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Hayy, Rifa'i, Salman and Ushbayjah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1205 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1150 hours on 3 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Ushbayjah, Lasaf, Artawi, Busayyah, Jalibah, Salman, Basrah, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Shatrah, Qal'at Sukkar and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1300 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0905 hours on 4 January 2000 United States and British F-14 and F-15 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out six missions, four of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Umm Qasr, Artawi, Ushbayjah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1020 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0715 hours on 5 January 2000 United States and British F-14 and F-15 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out four missions from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and overflew the Salman, Ushbayjah and Taqtaqanah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0815 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0830 hours on 7 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado, EA-6B and remotely piloted aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 23 missions, 13 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Salman, Basrah, Amarah, Jalibah, Qurnah, Artawi and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0945 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1030 hours on 8 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 38 missions, 26 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Salman, Basrah, Amarah, Jalibah, Qurnah, Artawi and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1335 hours, drove them off.